

## FRENCH INDOCHINA

of the group, a solidarity of souk both living and  
dead. Thus death  
a more severe blow at the group than at the  
individual most  
related to the deceased. In an Annamite funeral it is  
the com-  
not the family, which plays the major role. Custom  
forces all  
on pain of fine, to attend the funeral of a co-villager.  
Non-  
like women and children, are for the same reason given  
very  
burials. Because death has weakened the community,  
it is a  
which the deceased's family must wipe out and  
expiate  
by everything that has touched the corpse, by  
rigid rites and  
of mourning\* and by offering the soul every facility in  
food and  
into the spirit world. Decomposition alone releases  
the  
aoul the body. Its final burial, at the end of  
three years, marks the  
end of repugnance. A tablet with a brief biography  
of the dead  
is on the family altar\* from which it may be  
removed only after  
the Time has modified the severity of some  
of these  
but even nowadays Annamite society seems very  
harsh  
whom death has touched. It forces upon them a  
temporary  
symbolic of the soul's long exclusion from the spirit  
world  
It enter upoa the ten thousand generations of  
peace. Just  
m the cult of the dead binds together all its members,  
living and  
so the cult of the common ancestor unites by  
an  
the social group. The family ceremonies of  
at the tomb have their replica in  
the of Heaven and Earth, and of the  
agrarian  
an 'enormous mass of popular beliefs  
the Xot only have the dead a potentially harmful  
Oil rocks, treeSy and animals—particularly in  
tbe t of malevolent spirits.

Many of these  
 mrc the of those without tombs and offerings,  
 »a4 it it the soicerera recruit their  
 spiritual servitors.  
 of &e to all primitive peoples makes up  
 those  
 i\* lie Auoanfites give to the *mrtus* inherent  
 in all of Life 10 without it, but it is not  
 life  
 it» the basis of the soul. *KM* is a  
 « coaction of existence. It is, in  
 and TOOK}\* k tranams, it cannot act inde-  
 of «U\* fit of tfagg tow fares parallels that of the  
  
 Witt time • of fMei<sup>^</sup>d fk<sup>^</sup>m this  
 'inchoate